

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 3930

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CV

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH PRESIDENT OF CAPE VERDE

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1. FOLLOWING JULY 5 CAPE VERDE INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES,

PRESIDENT ARISTIDES PERREIRA MADE VERY CLEAR HIS DESIRE TO SPEAK WITH STAFFDEL ROSSITER AND FSO BALTIMORE, WHO WERE REPRESENTING SENATOR BROOKE FOR THE OCCASION. PERREIRA PERSONALLY APPROACHED U.S. DELEGATION DURING DINNER TO EXPRESS HIS WISH FOR A SECOND MEETING IN ADDITION TO JULY 5 PROTOCOLARY CALL. PERREIRA MET ALONE WITH ROSSITER AND BALTIMORE ON JULY 6 FOR APPROXIMATELY 25 MINUTES. SUBSTANCE OF PERREIRA TALK FOLLOWS:

2. FOREIGN POLICY: CAPE VERDE WILL FOLLOW AN INDEPENDENT PATH OF "ACTIVE NEUTRALITY." NO FOREIGN BASES WILL BE ALLOWED ON THE ISLANDS. CAPE VERDE IS "A THREAT TO NO ONE" AND IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF DEVELOPMENT. PURSUANT TO BETTERING THE LIFE OF THE CAPE VERDIAN PEOPLE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL BE REALISTIC AND PURSUE ITS OWN INTERESTS FIRST AND FOREMOST. FOR EXAMPLE, THE OAU HAS UNANIMOUSLY PASSED RESOLUTIONS AGAINST AFRICAN STATES PERMITTING SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS FLIGHTS OVER OR STOPOVERS ON AFRICAN TERRITORY. CAPE VERDE HAS NO INTENTION OF ASKING THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO SUSPEND OR DECREASE SAL ISLAND STOPOVERS ON EUROPE-SOUTH AFRICA ROUTE.

3. RELATIONS WITH U.S.: A NATURAL LINK ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND CAPE VERDE DUE TO THE HUGE EMIGRATION OVER RECENT YEARS. CAPE VERDE SEEKS STRONG AND FIRM RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF ITS U.S.-BASED OVERSEAS COMMUNITY BUT ALSO BECAUSE THE U.S. IS THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE WORLD. JULY 5 BEGINS A NEW PAGE IN U.S.-CAPE VERDIAN RELATIONS. ALTHOUGH THE U.S. WAS IN A QUASI-ALLIANCE WITH COLONIAL PORTUGAL, IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED THAT THE U.S. HAD TO FOLLOW ITS OWN STATE INTERESTS. CAPE VERDE WANTS STRONG AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND WOULD RATHER FORGET ABOUT DISPUTES IN PAST. LATE PAIGC LEADER AMILCAR CABRAL VISITED THE U.S. SEVERAL TIMES AND HAD ALWAYS BEEN A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE U.S. PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS. THE CAPE VERDIAN GOVERNMENT REALIZES PROPAGANDA IS GENERATED WITHIN THE U.S., MOSTLY BY OVERSEAS CAPE VERDIANS THEMSELVES, THE THE EFFECT THAT THE PAIGC IS COMMUNIST OR PRO-SOVIET. THIS IS NOT TRUE. CAPE VERDE IS NOT INTERESTED IN IDEOLOGY AND SEEKS ONLY DEVELOPMENT OF ITS POOR TERRITORY, LONG NEGLECTED BY THE PORTUGUESE. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT: FOODSTUFFS AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ARE THE MOST PRESSING PROBLEMS FACING THE ISLAND REPUBLIC. AT PRESENT LEVELS, THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT GUARANTEE ADEQUATE FOOD FOR ONE YEAR. WITH PROPER HELP, CAPE VERDE COULD BECOME A FOOD-EXPORTING NATION AND SUPPLY MUCH OF THE NEEDS OF WEST AFRICA AS WELL AS GROW EXOTIC FRUITS FOR EUROPE. PERREIRA SHOWED INTEREST IN ROSSITER'S

SUGGESTION THAT CAPE VERDE BE ASSEMBLY POINT FOR PRE-MANUFACTURED PARTS FROM U.S. FOR EXPORT TO AFRICA.

5. COMMENT: PRESIDENT'S WORDS AND VIP TREATMENT ACCORDED ROSSITER AND BALTIMORE BY PAIGC HOSTS APPEARED DESIGNED TO SUGGEST STRONG DESIRE ON PART OF NEW GOVERNMENT TO ESTABLISH FIRM AND CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S.
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